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LETTER DATED 15 AUGUST 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KUWAIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I wish to inform you of the details of a serious incident which occurred on Wednesday, 14 August 1991 when a Kuwaiti group led by the Kuwaiti Vice-Minister for the Interior was going to inspect the frontier post in the Kuwaiti demilitarized zone with the knowledge of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM). The Kuwaiti group was accompanied by Captain Paul Wink and Captain Phillip Point of UNIKOM.

While the group was making for the Suqaihid frontier post, one of the UNIKOM vehicles became immobilized as a result of the rough road and the Kuwaiti group was obliged to leave two vehicles in order to assist the broken-down vehicle. Shortly afterwards, the immobilized group was surprised by a red 1990 Chevrolet carrying about eight Iraqi soldiers commanded by an Iraqi first lieutenant. They opened fire on the Kuwaiti group which was therefore obliged to return the fire and to rescue the individuals in the broken-down vehicle and set off to rejoin the remainder of the Kuwaiti group and report the incident to Captain Wink and Captain Point. A UNIKOM vehicle set out immediately for the scene of the incident, accompanied by a colonel and a Kuwaiti officer, and arrived at the same time as an Observation Mission helicopter. The observers were surprised to find that the Iraqi Army personnel had increased to full company strength and were attempting to take possession of the disabled Kuwaiti vehicle by force. As the Iraqi soldiers refused to withdraw to the frontier, the UNIKOM personnel were obliged to argue with them, warning them that they had committed serious violations of the Kuwaiti border (carriage of arms, theft and crossing the border to a distance of 2 kilometres) and that they must withdraw immediately. The members of the Observation Mission then towed the disabled Kuwaiti vehicle to the UNIKOM position.

This incident is a flagrant violation of the cease-fire arrangements between Kuwait and Iraq and an example of the intentions of Iraq and of its lack of respect for its commitments, to the detriment of security and stability in the region. After this incident, in which members of the United Nations Observation Mission took part and saw what happened, the Iraqi

authorities will not be able, as they are accustomed to do, to evade their responsibility for the incident since it occurred within sight and earshot of the Mission. The Security Council is therefore requested to warn Iraq against any repetition of such grave violations and to hold it responsible for the full consequences of any recurrence.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammad A. ABULHASAN
Permanent Representative